

CLAIMS:

1. A medical device for insertion into a body, the device having at least one surface covered by at least one detachable cover, the cover being detachable from the surface and removed from the body while the device is inserted in the body.
- 5 2. The device according to Claim 1, the device being selected from the group comprising:
 - (a) a catheter;
 - (b) a cannula;
 - (c) drain;
 - 10 (d) a stent;
 - (e) a pacemaker; and
 - (f) an electrode.
3. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is an inner surface.
4. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is an outer surface.
- 15 5. The device according to Claim 1 having at least two detachable covers, each cover being detachable from the surface and removed from the body while the device is inserted in the body.
6. The device according to Claim 5 wherein the at least two covers are identical.
- 20 7. The device according to Claim 5 having two covers with different properties.
8. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a material selected from the group comprising:
 - (a) rubber;
 - 25 (b) silicone rubber;
 - (a) polyvinylchloride;
 - (b) latex;
 - (c) woven metal mesh; and
 - (d) parylene.

9. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a biocompatible material.
10. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a non-allergenic material.
- 5 11. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a smooth surface.
12. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a rough surface.
13. The device according to Claim 5 containing an antibiotic between two adjacent covers.
14. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is reversibly attached
10 to a surface by means of elastic forces in the cover.
15. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is detached from the surface by tearing the cover.
16. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is torn along one or more preformed seams or perforations in the cover.
- 15 17. The device according to Claim 1 comprising a blade slidable over the surface so as to cut the cover and detach the cover from the surface.
18. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is a surface of a slender shaft associated with the device.
19. The device according to Claim 18 wherein the cover is formed from a strip
20 of material, the cover being attached to the shaft when wrapped around the shaft in a helix, and the cover being detached from the shaft by unwrapping the strip.
20. The device according to Claim 18 wherein further comprising a ring placed at a distal end of the shaft to prevent materials from entering between the cover and the surface.
- 25 21. The device according to Claim 18 wherein the cover comprises an inner cylindrical shell and an outer cylindrical shell, the inner and out cylindrical shells having a distal end and a proximal end, the inner and outer cylindrical shells being attached to each other at their proximal ends and at their distal ends.
22. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed by depositing
30 on the surface a liquid and allowing the liquid to solidify on the surface.

23. The device according to Claim 22 wherein the liquid is deposited by brushing, spraying, or immersion.

24. The device according to Claim 1 comprising one or more balloons located between the cover and the surface, the cover being attached to the surface when the
5 balloons are inflated, and detached from the surface when the balloons are not inflated.

25. The device according to Claim 1 in which the cover is impenetrable to microorganisms.

26. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is impenetrable to
10 water.

27. The device according to any one of the previous claims in the cover stores and releases a substance.

28. The device according to Claim 32 wherein the cover releases an anti-microbial or anti-fungal compound.

15 29. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has two parallel rows of perforations or seams separating a strip of the cover, the strip being attached at a distal end to a first end of a cord and a second end of the cord being accessible at a proximal end of the device.

30. The device according to Claim 1 further comprising a cutter slidable along
20 the surface of the device, the cutter being configured to cut the cover when sliding along the surface.

31. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a row of perforation such that when a proximal end of the perforation is torn, the cover may be made to slide over the surface in a proximal direction.

25 32. A system for forming a cylindrical cover on a mandrill, comprising:

(a) a first reservoir containing a first suspension;

(b) a wiper for removing a portion of the first suspension when applied
onto the mandrill

(c) a second reservoir containing a second suspension; and

30 (d) a nozzle for applying the second suspension to the mandrill.

33. A system for transferring a cover from a mandrill to a cylindrical shaft of a device, comprising:

(a) a first chamber configured to receive the mandrill;

(b) a second chamber surrounding a portion of the first chamber, the first
5 and second chambers having a common wall containing a plurality of
pores;

(c) an outlet for evacuating the first and second chambers.

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